

New Bridge Construction Begins in Midtown Atlanta

14th Street Bridge gets Overhaul

Retailers, restaurateurs, employers and others who make up the midtown community should prepare to use some innovative alternatives to travel around town. The Georgia Department of Transportation is rebuilding the 14th Street Bridge over the downtown connector to relieve congestion at the 14th Street interchange.

The improved bridge will feature two new exit ramps from the interstate: southbound to 10th Street and northbound to 17th Street. These additions will help to relieve congestion on the existing ramps. This improvement is scheduled to be completed by May 31, 2010.

Weekday lane closures will not be required for this project, however it will be necessary to close the 14th Street Bridge once construction begins. When the bridge officially closes traffic will be detoured to the 17th Street Bridge. For the length of the project, construction will not take place during inclement weather or on holiday weekends.

To prepare for this undertaking, crews have already cleared trees and are currently relocating utilities in the project area. The utility work is expected to take a minimum of nine months to complete. Georgia DOT Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl said, "Although we are just in the early stages of the project, we want motorists to begin thinking about transportation alternatives available to help them avoid delays."

The Department is in the process of developing information to assist motorists and local businesses in finding alternate routes, utilizing transit, establishing vanpools, encouraging carpooling and teleworking during the construction period.

Motorists are urged to use the online tools provided by Georgia DOT to assist in commute planning. Particularly, detailed construction, lane closure and traffic incident information is available at www.georgia-navigator.com where users can register on "My NaviGator" to establish personalized reports of real-time travel information. Motorists can also call the Department's 24-hour, toll free traffic and construction hotline at (404) 635-6800; or dial *DOT on AT&T and Verizon cell phones to reach a Transportation Management Center operator.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information, please visit our website at www.dot.state.ga.us.